GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2200
ANSWERED ON:29.08.2007
DEVELOPMENT OF MEDICINAL PLANTS
Nedurumalli Janardhana Reddy Shri

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has made any comprehensive plan to develop medicinal plants in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to set up a medicinal plants processing zone in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government proposes to give some incentives to the farmers for growing such plants; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS)

(a)&(b) Government has set up Medicinal Plants Board vide Resolution notified on 24th November, 2000. The objectives of establishing the Board is to establish an agency which would be responsible for co-ordination of all matters relating to medicinal plants, including drawing up policies and strategies for conservation, proper harvesting, cost-effective cultivation, research and development, processing, marketing of raw material in order to protect, sustain and develop this sector.The Board has been implemening schemes for various promotional activities including survey, inventorisation, documentation, in / ex-situ conservation, extension activities for increasing awareness, training of growers and collectors, research & development etc. in the field of medicinal plants.

(c)&(d) It is proposed to implement a "Centrally Sponsored Scheme for setting up of Medicinal Plants Processing Zones including Cultivation, Processing and Marketing" for medicinal plants during 11th Plan.Under the scheme Medicinal Plants Processing Zones (MPPZs) are proposed to be set up in (5) different regions of the country viz. Western, Central, Southern, Eastern and North Eastern. The MPPZs will have facility for warehousing, drying, grading, storage and transportation etc. Financial assistance will also be provided as per the scheme after its approval.

(e)&(f) The Medicinal Plants Board is already implementing Contractual Farming Scheme under which financial assistance @ 30% of the project cost, maximum upto Rs. 9.00 lacs, is provided to farmers/growers for cultivation of identified medicinal plants.